



# Grasmere & the Central Lake District

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## Why Go?

The broad bowl of Grasmere acts as a geographical junction between the east and west of the Lake District, sandwiched between the rumpled peaks of the Langdale Pikes and the gentle hummocks and open dales of the eastern fells. It's a wonderfully scenic corner of the national park, ringed by craggy peaks and spotted with woodland, tarns and seemingly endless green fields.

The area is perhaps best known for its literary connections, largely thanks to William Wordsworth, who lived for most of his adult life near Grasmere. Wordsworth and his contemporaries spent countless hours wandering the surrounding hilltops, and the area is dotted with literary landmarks, as well as an excellent museum devoted to the Romantic movement. Grasmere is also the gateway to one of Lakeland's great hiking heartlands, Great Langdale, where walkers set out on classic routes across the high tops of the Crinkle Craggs and the Langdale Pikes.

## Best Places to Eat

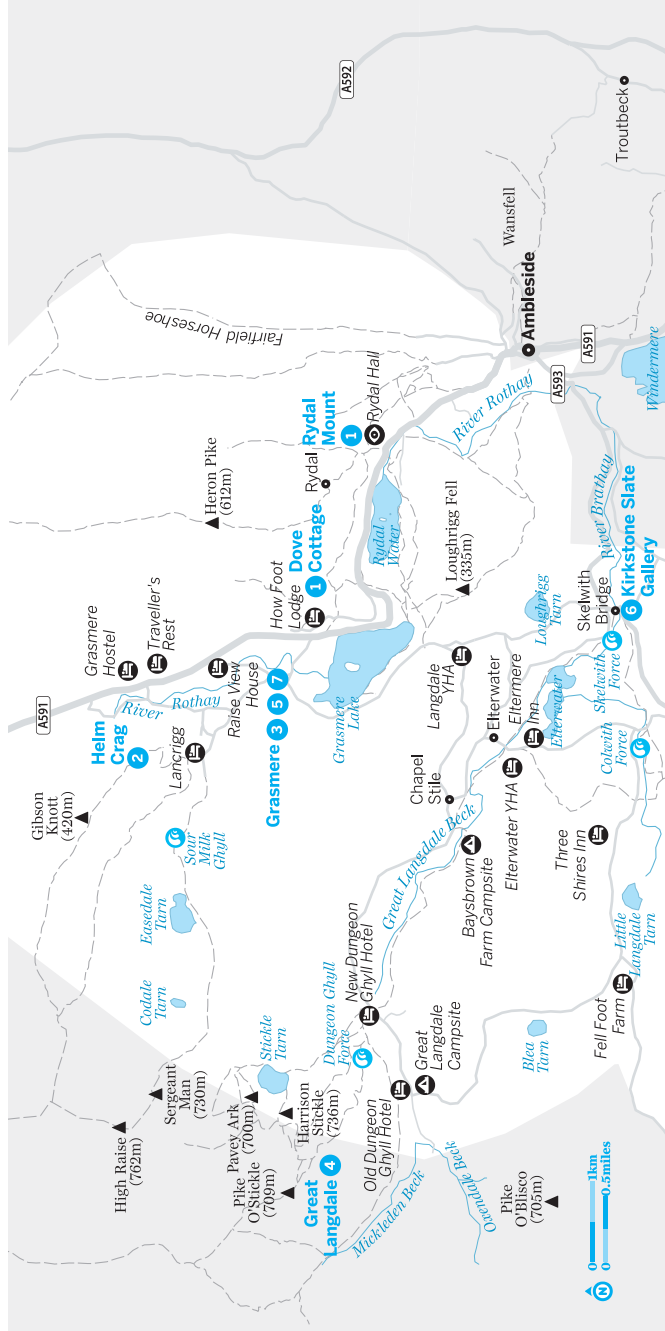
- » Jumble Room (p73)
- » Eltermere Inn (p78)
- » Sara's Bistro (p73)
- » Chesters Cafe by the River (p77)
- » Three Shires Inn (p77)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Eltermere Inn (p78)
- » Moss Grove Organic (p73)
- » Old Dungeon Ghyll (p79)
- » How Foot Lodge (p71)
- » Great Langdale Campsite (p81)

## When to Go

Grasmere is one of the Lake District's most popular spots, and the village gets very crowded in summer, especially during school holidays and around the village's traditional sports day on the August bank holiday. For the best hiking weather in Langdale, late spring and early autumn are usually the most reliable times, although, as always, conditions can be changeable on the fells. Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount often have special events to mark Wordsworth's birthday on 7 April.



## Grasmere & the Central Lake District Highlights

- 1 Peek into the private life of William Wordsworth at **Dove Cottage** (p68) and **Rydal Mount** (p74)
- 2 Follow in the footsteps of generations of walkers on Grasmere's classic fell, **Helm Crag** (p72)
- 3 Sample a slab of the trademark gingerbread from **Sarah Nelson's Gingerbread Shop** (p69)
- 4 Marvel at the panoramic majesty of the views in **Great Langdale** (p79)
- 5 Time your visit to coincide with Grasmere's eccentric **traditional sports day** (p74)

- 6 Pick up some slate souvenirs from the **Kirkstone Slate Gallery** (p77)
- 7 Stop off for a tale or two courtesy of the exuberantly outfitted Taffy Thomas at the **Storyteller's Garden** (p69)